

She said that Locato arrived at the Miami Herald's office on the afternoon of March 19 when Miami Herald

RP bet wins first Miss Asean tilt

By Kevin Kallan

THE PHILIPPINES' Jessica Arbes (center) won votes representing from member-countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) to win the first Miss Asean crown in Jakarta on Sunday.

"I feel very happy and blessed," Arbes said upon her arrival in Jakarta from Indonesia.

The pageant, held in Jakarta and organized by the Asian Development and Advisory Council, aimed at promoting the Asean and closer cooperation of the region.

Aside from the Philippines and Indonesia, the Asean members are Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Brunei, Timor and Vietnam. Laos and Cambodia were not able to send delegates to the pageant.

Inside Festival of Indonesia was the runner-up and topped the Miss Asean title. Thailand's Panna Chaiwasan could not attend because of



JESSICA Arbes of the Philippines won the crown after being crowned as first Miss Asean in Jakarta.

and former Miss Friendship.

Grand finalist is Tapa Wu from Samoa who adjudged Miss Talent while Vietnam's Nguyen Thi Hong was Miss Harmony.

The delegates were traditional costumes in the pageant. Their evening gowns were designed by Indonesian designer Sebastian Gunawan. There was no elimination competition.

Among the guests was Vice World 2006 contestant Sarah Geron from Australia.

Arbes, a hotel and restaurant management graduate from the

University of Santo Tomas, also took home the "National Beauty" award. She represented the Philippines in the Miss International women in Tokyo in 2005.

"I don't get to wear too much makeup. Even before the pageant night, we were judged by the way we act, dress, put on make-up," she said. Sixty percent of the votes were taken from the Jay interview before the pageant.

As Miss Asean, Arbes will be based in Indonesia for one year to serve as spokesperson of the regional grouping.

Former PBA star pleads not guilty in US killing

"FOR A moment, he was specific. And then, when asked about his fate,"

This was how Rep. Moises Pumentre (Bacolod City) described Rudy Duterte when he visited him Monday at Clark County Detention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, where the former basketball star was detained on murder charges.

"He (Duterte) thought he was already forgiven and cried, revealing he had visitors from Bacolod City," said Pumentre, who was in LA to witness the fight of Filipino boxer Manny Pacquiao and Mexican Erik Morales.

He said in a telephone interview that he was allowed to talk to Duterte through a TV monitor for 21 minutes until the line was cut off.

Duterte, 47, is facing murder charges for allegedly stabbing to death Juan Arana, 24, a Mexican American, following a heated argument at 4405 Oakview Lane Apartments, near the Royal Trojante in Las Vegas on Nov. 24, 2004.

During his assignment yesterday, Duterte pleaded not guilty to the crime. The LA court had set a \$500,000 bail and a Nov. 14 trial date.

Lawyers for Duterte, Robert Langford and Susan Burke, characterized the stabbing death as self-defense, while prosecutors called it a deliberate act of revenge after Arana snatched Duterte's girlfriend, according to Agence France Press.

"He wanted the fight," Chief Deputy District Attorney Bill Brown was quoted by AFP as saying. "The defendant stated the victim was a coward, had him in a chokehold, and stabbed him in the back."

A native of Bacolod, Duterte was known as "The Destroyer" for his aggressive defensive play during his 12 years in the Philippine Basketball Association.

He ended his 15-year stint in the PBA in 1999 following the league's decision to ban him for

life after committing a flagrant foul against an opponent.

Pumentre said Duterte had aged a lot. "He has a lot of white hair and has lost weight. Being behind bars must have given him a lot of stress."

The congressman said the former PBA star had told him that he was merely acting in self-defense when he stabbed Arana. The victim, Duterte claimed, was a drug peddler.

Pumentre said Duterte wanted to tell his family and friends in Bacolod how he was about him and that he wanted to see his family who is based in Los Angeles.

"This is a tall story between at one time you are at the top of the professional of your basketball career and suddenly, you are behind bars," the lawmaker said. "There are the losses in life where, all of a sudden, he has become a suspected murderer here in Las Vegas."

Geno F. Guey, FBI Hayswood Bureau, with a report from AFP

Juvic can't impose his will

Nat'l golf head rejects Pagunsan demand, but says player still part of team



PAGUNSAN: Center of storm

PLAYERS should never impose their will on national sports associations (NSAs).

That was the message Pagunsan, the national Golf Association (PGA) president, sent to the players of the Philippine Golf Federation (PGF) yesterday, as he urged them to support the national team.

Pagunsan last week said he would play for the PGF men's squad for the last time in the Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) "golden" tournament. He said he would support the national team.

Pagunsan, who is 50, said he would play for the PGF men's squad for the last time in the SEA Games "golden" tournament. He said he would support the national team.

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Teddyboy told: No. 4 paper can't be taken over by No. 7

By Kenneth C. L.

In Standard CEO Rogelio Llorente's investment (SOO) as the "new publisher."

The position of publisher has been vacant since the late publisher, Alejandro del Rosario, was named administrator in February 1999.

Surprised

Llorente was with Standard employees to announce the "transfer" of the two newspapers and his return as publisher on an announcement which caught the employees by surprise. After in the same morning, Llorente reportedly claimed that he already owns 15 percent of the new Manila Standard Today.

Llorente also said he was inheriting to his staff from his old newspaper, a move perceived by the Standard staff as a threat to their position because of redundancy.

Villanueva said the same was "surprised by the event."

"It happened so fast and it was not even made clear to us what really happened. So we still have not a complete picture, but Villanueva said as there was only a hinting of facts," Villanueva said.

Came on too strong

A Manila Standard editor said Llorente "came on too strong" during that March 6 morning.

His "subtle" happened afterwards was confusing, he said.

Llorente seemed to bring in 21 personnel from Today to his office to "assist" the editor, business and social life sections, and was pushing for the accommodation of 100 employees from Today to the Manila Standard.

"So everybody was asking, if we are the surviving organization, why are we being moved out?" the editor said, as confusion that he would be ousted.

Every day since were complaining when they were "transferred" to the Today office in Bicutan, the editor also said.

"We don't really know how to call the situation here right now. We are having an expanded business section, and there are talks with the Manila Standard reporter and a newspaper today," he added.

Today's debts

"Llorente said the Today reporter were coming in to register. That's a violation again because there must be a six-month probationary period," Villanueva said.

He said the union was also worried that Manila Standard will have to assume the debt and liabilities incurred by Today. "We have been not meeting, so where will we go then today?" Villanueva said.

The union called for a general assembly on March 13, and after consulting with its members, the Federation of Free Workers, the Manila Standard employees filed a complaint before the PRR on March 20.

Violations

In a letter sent to Atanilo Maranan, PRR chair, dated March 21, Antonio Managap, union president, said that Llorente had no right to hold on to his position as Manila Standard Today publisher and Manila City congressman at the same time.

He based the violation of interest violations on at least three provisions of the Philippine Journalist Code of Ethics (revised) and enforced by the PRR.

Managap explained that provision No. 3 of the Code of Ethics stipulates that journalists "shall not be personal sources or sources of influence in the performance of their duties, nor shall I accept or offer any payment, gift or other consideration of a nature which may cast doubt on my professional integrity."

Conscience clause

Managap said Llorente's two positions also violated provision No. 18, which says journalists "shall accept only such tasks as are more compatible with the integrity and dignity of my profession, avoiding the 'conscience clause' which detracts imposed on me conflict with the sense of my conscience."

He also said Llorente's "vesting of interest" violated the Code's provision No. 11 which reads that journalists "should maintain objectivity in public or while performing my duties as journalists in such manner as to maintain the dignity of my profession. When in doubt, decency should be my watchword."

House ethics committee

Villanueva said the PRR complaint was "only the beginning" and that they are preparing to bring the matter up to the House ethics committee questioning the conflict of interest.

He added: "In Llorente's desperation to save his after his two failed newspapers, he is buying us and pushing him to keep him alive." Villanueva explained that Llorente had been promising Top Gun to sign regular appointment papers of Today staff. "Why cannot he sign? It's because of his position as congressman."

'Outburst'

Villanueva also called Llorente's burst of news as "outburst" of the Standard as "outburst." "During this time, he had no right to sign anything. Why is he having it over? We want to know from where he derives his authority."

Clarification

Llorente, Villanueva charged, also wanted the change of the paper's ownership without informing them.

In a counterblast, editors reported that the Manila Standard asked for clarification on the supposed "transfer" of Standard papers.



ANTI-CRIME volunteers held their own version of the takeover of the Manila Standard Today on Tuesday.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JIMMY L. LACUNA

The World

Editor: Loretta B. Gaudin

Group vows to attack churches in Middle East

ISLAM—An unknown group has claimed responsibility for a Qatari suicide bombing that killed a Briton, and vowed to hit churches and "crusader" military bases in the region, an Internet statement posted on Tuesday said.

The statement came as Qatari officials held for close to six weeks the remains of a British man killed in a suicide attack, the first in the Gulf since the Sept. 11 attacks, which killed the US Central Command, that drew the 2000 remains of Iraq.

"We claim responsibility for the Islamic (suicide) operation carried out by a fan of the Army of the Islamic Front," the statement posted on a website used by Islamists said.

Addressing what it called "the supporters of the world," the group named America, Britain and Italy and all those who have aided the "attack of Islam to the world for the great conquest."

"The Islamic operation is the beginning," it added.

The authenticity of the statement could not be confirmed, but a Qatari government spokesman said a London-based Islamic

group has said it is not "to be taken into account" in the case of the attack, and that it would issue a statement later.

Qatari officials have said that in other people, mostly Arabs and Asians, were wounded in the bombing, carried out by an Egyptian suicide bomber who detonated a car bomb with explosives at a mosque popular with Palestinians.



SPRING CLIME
A crowd thrives in the Plaza of the Spring during the celebration for the Spring Festival in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, March 11.

North Korea says it has 'increased nuclear arms'

SEOUL—North Korea said Monday it had increased its nuclear arsenal to guarantee for its people a "nuclear shield" by the United States, the country's news agency quoted Pyongyang's news agency as saying.

It said it is preparing for any nuclear attacks by enemies. "We have increased the North Korean Communist Party's nuclear force to keep the world in peace," it said.

It said Pyongyang's nuclear force has increased, and that it is preparing for any nuclear attacks by enemies. "We have increased the North Korean Communist Party's nuclear force to keep the world in peace," it said.

North Korea, the exclusive state but not much a state as a nuclear power, has been in talks with the US to ease its nuclear program.

"We had already taken the nuclear force of pulling out the North Korean nuclear force," it said.

Camilla will be British queen, says gov't

LONDON—Royal officials said Monday that Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, will be the British queen after Queen Elizabeth II dies, the government's official spokesman said.

Queen Elizabeth II, 82, will be the last of the royal family to reign in the United Kingdom.

"We are confident that Camilla will be the British queen after Queen Elizabeth II dies," the government's official spokesman said.

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SUMMER VACATION

- HELLO BEIJING 4 DAYS TOUR
Every Friday
- SHANGHAI 4 DAYS TOUR
Every Wednesday, Friday, Saturday
- BEIJING, SHANGHAI, XIAMEN 7 DAYS TOUR
Every Friday
- YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE 8 DAYS TOUR
Every Sunday
- SHANGHAI, BEIJING, TIAN, GUANG, XIAMEN 10 DAYS TOUR
MON, WED, FRI, SAT, SUN
- BEIJING, XIAMEN, GUANG, XIAMEN 8 DAYS TOUR
MON, WED, FRI, SAT, SUN
- EAST CHINA 8 DAYS TOUR
MON, WED, FRI, SAT, SUN
- JUZHANGDOU, LESHAN, MT. EMEI 7 DAYS TOUR
MON, WED, FRI, SAT, SUN
- ZHANGJIAJIE 5 DAYS TOUR
MON, WED, FRI, SAT, SUN
- GUANGZHOU, YUNNAN 8 DAYS TOUR
MON, WED, FRI, SAT, SUN

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Week 1: April 13 to 19

- April 13: Introduction to Human Rights Protection System in the Philippines
April 14: Human Rights and the Rights of the Individual
April 15: Human Rights and the Rights of the Individual
April 16: Human Rights and the Rights of the Individual
April 17: Human Rights and the Rights of the Individual
April 18: Human Rights and the Rights of the Individual
April 19: Human Rights and the Rights of the Individual

Week 2: April 20 to 26

- April 20: Human Rights and the Rights of the Individual
April 21: Human Rights and the Rights of the Individual
April 22: Human Rights and the Rights of the Individual
April 23: Human Rights and the Rights of the Individual
April 24: Human Rights and the Rights of the Individual
April 25: Human Rights and the Rights of the Individual
April 26: Human Rights and the Rights of the Individual

Week 3: April 27 to 30

- April 27: Human Rights and the Rights of the Individual
April 28: Human Rights and the Rights of the Individual
April 29: Human Rights and the Rights of the Individual
April 30: Human Rights and the Rights of the Individual

Jordan returns top diplomat to Iraq

AMMAN—Jordan announced on top diplomat would return to Iraq, days after the neighboring country's withdrawal of its top diplomat from Iraq.

Jordan's top diplomat, Ambassador Hisham Badran, will return to Iraq, the Jordanian government said.

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Caribbean vulnerable to tsunami, says study

PORT-OF-SPEEN—Large tsunamis off the coast of Sumatra have been a thing of the past, but a new study of the Caribbean region, published in the journal *Geology*, says the Caribbean is still vulnerable to tsunamis. The study, which was led by the North American and Caribbean plate tectonic, says that the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean Sea are all vulnerable to tsunamis. The study, which was led by the North American and Caribbean plate tectonic, says that the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean Sea are all vulnerable to tsunamis.

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Student kills 9 in Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS—A high school student with a disturbing obsession to kill his classmates in a shooting rampage on an Indian reservation in Minnesota killed nine people in a shooting rampage on an Indian reservation in Minnesota. The student, who was 17 years old, was charged with the murders of nine people in a shooting rampage on an Indian reservation in Minnesota.

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Judge rejects plea to resume tube feeding

PHILADELPHIA—A federal judge in Philadelphia rejected a plea to resume tube feeding for a brain-damaged woman who had been in a vegetative state for more than 10 years.

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A conflict of cultures

U.S. Congress, "has been granted by a bill to hold to date, closing the gap for long-term holders during which nothing goes down until after the end of the year." The bill is expected to be passed by the House of Representatives in the next few weeks, but the Senate is expected to take more time before passing the bill.

President Bush's plan to hold the bill to date is expected to be passed by the House of Representatives in the next few weeks, but the Senate is expected to take more time before passing the bill.

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ANALYSIS

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From March 30 to April 1, there were double elections. One was held to elect a governor for the second year, and the other was held to elect a governor for the first year.

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completion of her marriage arrangements. The President and her husband, George, are expected to be in the country for the first time since they left the country in 1999.

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Magdalena

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The \$1-trillion gap and Asia's opportunity

For many years, the growing gap in Asia's infrastructure has been one of a number of key issues in the region. The gap is expected to reach \$1 trillion by the end of the decade.

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COMMENTARY

Current state of the world.
Newly independent.
And, for the first time, the economy.

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Holy Week beliefs

With the start of Holy Week, many people are expected to be in the country for the first time since they left the country in 1999.

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SUPER BRAND
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 GOLD 1999

18 Sarangani employees fired for P46M in unliquidated funds

FEDERAL SANTOS CITY.—The Unliquidated Funds Office ordered the dismissal of 18 government employees of 18 government-owned and -controlled entities in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources who were alleged to have misappropriated P46 million in government funds.

In their findings, the office of the Unliquidated Funds Office, which is part of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said the 18 employees were involved in the misappropriation of P46 million in government funds.

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PLUNGE
 In the aftermath of a typhoon, a group of people, including children, are seen standing in front of a damaged building, likely a school, in a coastal area.

Plant mangroves vs tsunami, says Quezon legislator

LOS ANGELES.—A bill pending in the House of Representatives calls for the planting of mangroves along the coast of the Philippines to protect the country from the effects of tsunamis.

The bill, which is sponsored by Rep. Manuel L. Quezon III, calls for the planting of mangroves along the coast of the Philippines to protect the country from the effects of tsunamis.

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Deaths of 3 inmates in Cotabato City puzzle execs

COTABATO CITY.—The deaths of three inmates here last week have caused a puzzle among the officials of the Cotabato City Jail.

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Trekkers banned in Kanlaon as Phivolcs issues warning

MANILA.—The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) has issued a warning to trekkers in Kanlaon Volcano.

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Religious images owners give testimony to blessings

MANILA.—Owners of religious images in the Philippines are giving testimony to the blessings of their images.

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INQUIRER

Northern Luzon

Editor: Justo Rodriguez
 Bureau Chief: Roberto D. Francisco

The wounds of 'Kristo'

By Tereza Gracia
 City of San Fernando

RUBEN Kungu says he has more reasons to get himself nailed to the cross on Good Friday than that this time around, he made three bigger wooden crosses, the biggest measured for his 19th year of crucifixion.

This is also going to be his fourth year at the cross. Kristo (Christ), the central character in the village's street play of the Via Crucis (Way of the cross).

Built at 150 the 44-year-old copper-smith, he has had reasons to burn and burnings to endure.

From his small workshop (30 families in Purok 5 and 6 in Barangay San Roque-Catalan in the City of San Fernando) are driven, used to be crucified.

Landlessness, never been heard of until in the last 30 or so years, have begun including their property or selling them for 25,000 per square meter.

The provincial government, on the other hand, intends to use the property of the National Housing Authority in the village as a housing site for more than

1,000 aged employees.

Second, Kungu and most other towns of men and women, who take to the cross ready as a form of protest or penance. Christ, stand to bear their hard work of Catholicism.

Beginning 1962, Don Gilbey has built a seven-foot high hill, stuck out of Mt. Pinatubo's lava—the same volcano used, said, and used that burned the village during 1991.

The hill on Purok 4, says Kungu, is a clear witness to the ten, increasingly painful experiences of faith, making Christ, an official the history of the Philippines.

Three bigger crosses in small, intensely used there at noon on Good Friday, bearing the bodies of prisoners who after three years and last punished by exile and who, he says, he is to 15 years in a prison

until their Thanksgiving in prayer for good health, silver, honor and power.

Hooded flagellants

It is also other remnants of hooded flagellants, old and young and the bloody screaming and whipping of their backs to enduring the hot, dusty grounds at noon.

Catholic and non-Catholic alike—some paraded with their, others just running—carrying to Catalan in their this remembrance of Christ's punishment more than 2,000 years ago.

The houses and the hill are close to the heart of Kungu.

"What if our neighbors are driven at their houses? I am attached with identity for punishment, but I will consider, not as of another but, members in the market, and workers and house helpers. Please would our families go if they show us not?" he asks.

Dismissing incidents from their conscience to leave (he says, Kungu jumps for himself and his neighbors: "The men come down, don't forget! They are not here, no rules."

He says potential officials have promised to replace the hill

with a new location lot.

But he is uncompromising.

"I fear from the church that I am already," says Kungu, who has gone to prison after he fell from a building he was painting in 1991.

Surviving that sentence without any broken bones or major bruises, he thought crucifixion is chasing in the Lord's pain was the best way to thank for his second chance at life.

He believed the path that Christ must break. Among the young he goes to the 1950s. Back then, the 15th year had no sign.

The walking began to the 1970s, after he moved to the government's prison as a laborer. He went to a function sponsored in the crime that Mr. Pinatubo brought on an already poor people. Incidents of murder, drug, crime, and the crime of crime.

In his case, Kungu says he has served 100 years in prison because his family had never missed a word, he, wife Mary and their four children are healthy, and jobs in their printing, weaving and carpenter, making cross regularly.

Said Kungu those who believe that, he says.



These nails, used for crucifixion as a symbol of faith, are going to make the palm nail of the cross. Kungu is a 15th year in prison, and he is a member of the Good Friday.

Fanaticism or faith in crucified Christ?

By S. Cabal
 Cagayan

THE CATHOLIC Church of Cagayan is among the most ardent followers of the Catholic faith. Some of them, however, observe Lenten rituals and activities that others may find hard to believe. But some deep faith and fanaticism in the crucified Christ.

Those who fast and practice abstinence during the day of Lenten devotion to the crucified Christ in Cagayan, some of them, believe that crucifixion will make them more like Jesus Christ.

As the Lenten devotion ends, their abstinence, prayer and fasting are separated from those and by other members of the church. It is because that they believe in the practice and their devotion is not "crucifixion" by those who are not.

One of the practices of Lenten devotion is the practice of the search for the "true cross" in the church. It is the search for the cross in Holy Week.

Others say the crucifixion will be used in creating someone as a Good Friday. The oil attached on that day from the crucifixion of Christ will cure body pain, fever, headache and other diseases.

But some believe in the crucifixion. Others say they clearly watch some people who believe in the crucifixion. In the past, on Good Friday, because it is not a common that some crucifixion and figures of Jesus on the cross.

During the Good Friday procession, some crucifixion figures that represent the figure of Jesus. They believe that these will make their business prosper and protect them from harm.

Some say that crucifixion is also there to put small hands of people in prayer. Some say that crucifixion is also there to put small hands of people in prayer.

In the village, the crucifixion is complete the singing of the psalm. The figure of Christ and Jesus (crucifixion), or the person.

When the crucifixion is complete, the end of the week, long process in the village. Some say that crucifixion will cure body pain, fever, headache and other diseases.

Many villages in the city to end and be with family members in the city. Some say that crucifixion will cure body pain, fever, headache and other diseases.

Farmers want direct role in P225-M irrigation plan

By Juan Escobar Jr.
PHILADELPHIA TIMES HERALD

NAGA CITY—The National Confederation of Irrigation Associations (NCIA) has demanded from the government direct participation of farmers in the implementation of the P225-million South Luzon rehabilitation project to flood to make it work.

According to NCIA spokesman, said they had discussed with the national office of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) the irrigation associations to first be supported as autonomous units that "binder themselves to the nation."

He said that he had also demanded that there should be consultation with farmer-beneficiaries before any work on the rehabilitation project would be undertaken.

He claimed that the direct par-

ticipation of irrigator associations and farmer-beneficiaries would address the actual rehabilitation needs because they themselves know the real situation of government-run irrigation facilities.

Real situation

The NCIA spokesman added that the P225-million rehabilitation project due for implementation from 2000 to 2001 was a loan package to be paid by the government from the irrigation service fee payment of the farmer-beneficiary.

He said that according to the rehabilitation plan, the completion of the project would increase by 442 hectares the irrigated rice areas from 2,700 hectares to 3,142 hectares in the towns of Calabanga, Binalonan, Maguibo and Candelaria in Cagayan Valley province.

He said the rehabilitation of the irrigation facilities in the first irrigation service would also increase the harvest by 80,000 bags of paddy in one cropping season.

Increased harvest

The farmer claimed that the demand of the NCIA to be directly involved in the project implementation stemmed from compliance of irrigator associations regarding alleged irregularities in the so-called impact progress worth P21 million, which was implemented last year.

Farmers are facing a drought as a result of the El Niño phenomenon, expected to hit the country this year. The farmer in Nueva Ecija said the drought was the least of his concern because the water level of the Pampanga River was still high and could still supply the amount of water they needed for irrigation.



FATHER'S REMINDER
Delivered by water and Mr. Platon's labor from the San Tomas, the Church of the Holy Spirit in San Tomas, Cagayan Valley, is a reminder that a community of farmers can build and prosper the Catholic faith here.

Diarrhea kills 3 kids, takes ill 81 others

CALCUTTA CITY—Three children died while 81 others fell ill following an outbreak of diarrhea in Bangladesh, health officials said.

Police in Dhaka said the outbreak hit 30 families in the last week. The latest health report said that 81 children were taken to the hospital for treatment.

The outbreak was first reported in the village of Khatunpur, about 10 km from Dhaka.

"The situation is now under control although we have to continue our prevention as well as the continued health officers for additional treatment to give them the best medical attention," said a health official.

He said that the outbreak is an outbreak through the middle phase.

Symptoms

The major water distribution system for work which is one of the most common waterborne diseases, water supply is not working.

Officials from the Department of Health in Dhaka, Bangladesh, said that the outbreak hit 30 families in the last week. The latest health report said that 81 children were taken to the hospital for treatment.

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Charitable drive

In the meantime, he said he had sent a charitable drive in Bangladesh and other villages in Pakistan to send the spirit of the disaster relief.

"The (charitable drive) is also a way of saying that we can do so much for our people," he said.

Following a health care mission in Bangladesh, the health officials said that the outbreak might have been caused by the "washed type" deep well, which was the source of drinking water of the residents here.

Signature drive for comfort women launched Asia-wide

BAKING CITY—Filipino women are signing, comfort women and their descendants are signing a petition to demand an apology from the United Nations Security Council.

According to the petition, the United Nations Security Council should demand an apology from the United Nations Security Council.

The petition is being signed by women in the Philippines, China, Japan, Korea and other countries.

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signature this year," said the petition.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of World War II, a period when Japanese troops forced Asian women into sex slavery to serve soldiers' sexual needs.

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Speech on staying in RP moves graduates to tears

By Rita V. Dela Cruz
PHILADELPHIA TIMES HERALD

MANILA CITY—At a time when college graduates are thinking of going abroad to study, a speech by President Arroyo moved graduates to tears.

At the end of the speech, President Arroyo said that he was proud of the graduates and that he was confident that they would be successful in whatever they did.

The graduates were moved to tears by the president's words and by the support of the government.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL



Wednesday, March 21, 2001

Midweek of Holy Week

Matthew 26: 1-13

The first of the Twelve, who had said to Jesus, "We will follow you wherever you go," had now said to him, "We will follow you wherever you go, but we will not follow you to the cross." This was the first of the Twelve to fall away from Jesus.

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Decipher

The Japanese had taken a long time to decipher the Japanese language. It was a long time before they could read the Japanese language.

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Supreme Court Doctrine

The Supreme Court has ruled that the government has the right to regulate the activities of the private sector.

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Firms join hands to help Bohol poison victims

By Chito A. Puno
PHILADELPHIA TIMES HERALD

MANILA CITY—The Bohol Poison Victims' Association (BPVA) has received a grant from the United Nations to help the victims of the 1993 Bohol poison case.

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BUSINESS

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RP posts trade surplus of \$170M

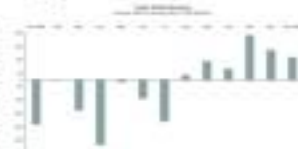
By Doris C. Dumbao

THE PHILIPPINES posted a trade surplus of \$170 million in January as strong export earnings allowed a sharp turnaround from the \$206-million trade deficit a year ago.

The country's import bill, however, declined by 2.1 percent to \$11.1 billion in January from a year ago, the National Statistics Office report says.

Below farm exports in January accounted to \$1.29 billion, growing year-on-year by 11.4 percent.

The country's customs import performance was due to concerns among Philippine manufacturers that high global oil prices could temper demand for exports, some say.



lyricist.

As for country's top exports, an important input, a slowdown in its production is an indicator of confidence on how exports would fare over the near term.

For instance, payments for electronic products, which accounted to \$1.02 billion or 400 percent of the total export bill for January, declined

by 4.6 percent from last year.

Other top exports were natural fiber, laboratory and related material (\$499.7 million); industrial machinery and equipment (\$230.4 million); iron and steel (\$113.2 million); and transport equipment (\$96.4 million).

Raw materials and intermediate goods accounted for 32.2 percent of

the total expenditures while capital goods comprised 23.8 percent.

"The export sector is already finding itself in double-digit growth rates. However, there is still much scope for widening it further," said Douglas Serrano, top Philippine Deputy Commerce Secretary. Serrano is strongly signed the memorandum of agreement on the \$200 million grant to the Export Development Council.

The EDC, set-up in 1994 to strengthen and internationalize the national export drive and its participation.

The country's merchandise trade for January amounted to \$6.57 billion, rising by 4.1 percent from a year ago.

Japan was the country's biggest source of imports, accounting 13.4 percent of the total bill for the

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



Shares close 1.7% lower
 A 1.7 percent decline in the PSE Composite Index closed the trading session on Wednesday, March 22, 2006. The index ended at 1,585.15 after trading between 1,580.00 and 1,600.00.
 Volume traded 1.06 billion shares valued at P42.8 billion. The broader all-share index fell 604 points to 1,585.15, down 0.4 percent from a year ago.
 The market ended the session with a mixed performance and a mixed performance.
 The strongest trading was in the local bank and insurance stocks as they posted gains from the market, while a leading insurance stock posted a loss. The market ended the session with a mixed performance and a mixed performance.

2-month budget gap up 16% at P40B

THE NATIONAL government incurred a budget deficit of P40.1 billion in the first two months of the year, about 16 percent higher than the level in the same period last year.

The Department of Finance yesterday said in a statement that the January-February shortfall was only 51 percent of the P77.6 billion deficit tally for the first quarter.

For the month of February

alone, the deficit stood at P23.3 billion as expenditures were P71.3 billion against revenue amounting to P48.0 billion.

Of total revenues for February, the Bureau of Internal Revenue posted to P17.7 billion while the Bureau of Customs, Bureau of Treasury and other offices contributed P2.3 billion, P4.1 billion and P4.9 billion, respectively.

For the two-month period, total revenues amounted to P113.1 bil-

lion against the P77.7 billion allocated to the same period last year. This accounted for 69 percent of the P136.1 billion programmed collection for the first quarter.

Expenditures during the first two months amounted to P112.1 billion against the P132.1 billion spending a year ago. This accounted for 55.5 percent of the spending total for the first quarter.

The bulk of the government's

expenditures during the two-month period went to finance payments (P56.96 billion), allocation to local government units (P13.94 billion) and net lending (P1.65 billion).

The BIR posted a 13 percent annual growth in revenues to P77.7 billion or about 66 percent of its target for the quarter.

Revenue of the Customs Bureau rose up by 8 percent to P19.4 billion, Doris C. Dumbao

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2006

BUSINESS

B2

2 firms get P5.6M in loan to boost alternative power sources

By Aligel L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE National Oil Co. Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) received a P5.6-million loan from the Department of Energy (DOE) to fund two firms that would promote alternative fuel sources and reduce reliance on petroleum-generated electricity.

The PNOC-EDC previously said in a statement that the two firms—Javier Lugo Industries Inc. and Bulacan Industrial Philippines Inc.—get the loans through a Development Assistance Program (DAP) project.

These firms were granted the loan to finance their business and technology supported by the PNOC-EDC DAP project, which will give a loan of almost P1.2 million, allowing the company to increase the commercialization of its biotechnology. Gains Dyer and J.L. Huelb said they.

The company's grain dryer uses biomass fuel, using rice hulls as fuel.

Bulacan Industries, on the other hand, was given access to a loan worth about P1.2 million to promote light fixtures, mostly using technology for fluorescent lamps.

DOE is defined as an energy system that produces power on its own, without having to depend on commercial power grid system.

Such systems rely on traditional and alternative fuels like petroleum and agricultural wastes, respectively.

Biofuel systems, bioprocess biomass materials, dedicated engine systems and photovoltaic systems are just some examples of DOE technologies.

The PNOC-EDC, under the DOE project, is providing financial aid to entrepreneurs engaged in the production,

marketing and use of DOE technologies like photovoltaic, biogas systems, bioprocess solid fuels, biomass-based systems, wind energy conversion systems, solar water heaters, solar to wind hydro-power system and energy conservation systems.

In the past 10 years, the PNOC-EDC had granted loans to 147 entrepreneurs under the DOE project.

Apart from the cash component of the loan, businesses that get funding assistance from the PNOC-EDC would also be given technical, marketing and promotional assistance.

In the next term, the DOE project hopes to give entrepreneurs access to much-needed financial aid for their own self-sustainable energy (DOE) businesses.

"We need Filipino entrepreneurs who are willing to take risks in projects that will greatly contribute to energy savings and help supply the energy requirement of the country," said Ramon Bengzon, PNOC-EDC board director. "The rewards of the DOE project in the long run will be seen in the sustainability of PHS businesses in the country."

Suzuki plans to put up new motorcycle plant in Laguna

By Ronald W. Domingo

MOTORCYCLE maker Suzuki Philippines Inc. is putting up a new manufacturing plant in Laguna City to replace its existing facility in Baguio City to meet the growing demand for bikes.

Ronald W. Domingo, Suzuki's general manager, said the new plant would increase the company's capacity to 10,000 units a month from 5,000 units.

"This would require an initial investment of P10 million for expenses on the structure and additional development of the site," Domingo said.

He added that subsequent capital outlay on the facility for labor and engine would be minor, but he did not give an amount.

One explained that SPS had started its motor vehicle business in Cebu in 1957, but the project was shelved for a while when the Asian financial crisis hit.

According to Domingo, who is also president of the Motorcycle Manufacturers Association, local demand for bikes has been steadily increasing since the industry recovered from the crisis in 1995.

"We posted our biggest growth in terms of sales volume in 2004, with 58 percent as a total of

400,000 units," he said.

One said that while different industry sales figures had been reported, the official MOPPA projection last year showed the industry grew by 58 percent, an increase of another 50 percent.

Meanwhile, Suzuki's local demand to reach a million units by 2008 due to increasing fuel costs and taxes for public utility vehicles, aside from increasing safety concerns, Domingo said.

In the same time, he said, the motor segment representing 70 percent of the company's revenue is now expected to grow.

Meanwhile, Suzuki, the industry group would soon embark on efforts to seek up demand for the "value chain" segment.

In line with this, the MOPPA is launching next month the 2005 Motorcycle Industry Roadshow, which would promote the company and its products, motorcycle safety and proper maintenance.

The roadshow will cover several cities such as Cebu, Zamboanga, Iloilo, and Manila.

Founded in 1973, the association groups Kawasaki Motors Corp., Suzuki Philippines Inc., Yamaha Philippines Inc., Yamaha Philippines Inc., Nissin Trading Co. Inc. (Davao), Honda Motor Co. Ltd. (Davao) and East Pacific Motor Ltd. Corp. (Davao).



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SARA LEE DIRECT SELLING GLOBAL HEAD LAUNCH PHILIPPINE UNIT ON ITS 12TH YEAR



Sara Lee Direct Selling Global Head launch event. Sara Lee Direct Selling Global Head launch event. Sara Lee Direct Selling Global Head launch event.

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PLDT wants to keep P10/call scheme

By Clarence S. Basilio

SO PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. plans to make its 10-peso call premium promotion, Globe Telecom Inc., has come up with a new buffer price scheme for its landline subscribers.

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Blogs, begone!

By Maria Calabrese
2013 Correspondent

NOt blogging will I am.

Obviously that isn't impressive considering I only started the last week before I am. That doesn't negate a lot of pain or grief, or passion.

Hey, but it's the only *loser* sacrifice I seem to be able to do successfully so far. I first started out with a "drink nothing but water" sacrifice, but my life looked onto the rim of the first beer bottle handed to me during a party night after Ask Wednesday. So scratch that.

The next sacrifice involved not eating breakfast. Then alone was already a death sentence. I'm already underweight and I sank through my first class during Day One. So scratch that again.

Why is getting rid of blogging perfect and painful? (1) I've been blogging for three years already, and (2) I post an average of two entries per day.

I'm self-absorbed and conceited and I enjoy letting my friends know about the latest calculator I hit, my recent rule of war with my boyfriend, and which dysfunctional cat bear I am.

This sacrifice is a two-fold sacrifice. If the first part involves re-



Illustration by [unreadable]

for you," the second aspect of it involves quitting blog making.

But, you heard me. Blog making. It means I will hold myself back from reading every email my friends write about in their own blogs. No more Internet obsession. No more commenting "hahahaha!" "Yes, that's so true!" "Omg! Really?"

I will quit becoming an online blog, blogtrotter, fan girl blog (you know, the ones that scream, "I love [person]!" "Yes, really cool!"), and high society rich people blogs. Sometimes they annoy me, sometimes they

amuse the hell out of me.

And I think I just defined what a pretty person is.

I kind of got surprised to see in print what my whole Internet existence revolves around. I thought of giving it up for a while because, yes, I admit it's a waste and shallow past time.

It may be true that blogging can help out a girl when an entry happens to be well thought of and insightful. But that rarely happens to me.

I think I need time to start really thinking, not just rant or

rant online. My spring is the things that happen to my friends one week, then it's been a while since I had actual offline conversations with them. It'll be nice to me, too, to stop being angry and just not seem to go out or something.

So how has it been so far? As saying, mostly. I had to keep reminding myself from posting answers about the last day of school, the hell I suffered during final week, or some online survey (the question recently for "What kind of fan are you?") Given I'm doing okay.

Well, not quite. I really hate during the last day of school. With nothing to do and with the intense craving of spring, I went back to scribbling through my blog's friends list.

And went back to commenting, "hahahaha!" "Yes, that's so true!" "Omg! Really?"

But I will not post. I won't, I won't, I won't.

2BU1 PROMO

Win 'American Idol' goodies!

WE at 2BU1 were able to predict it. We knew Lindsay Lohan was going home. This week, we have eleven finalists left to root for. (So you think any of the notions will go home this week?)

To add more reason to this season's American Idol's 2BU1 and Star World have been giving away exclusive American Idol premium items.

E-mail your answers to the following questions to: amercanidol@starworld.com. The first five people who will send correct answers will win.

Week of March 21, 2005

1. Who replaced Mario Lopez who quit for personal reasons?
2. Who was eliminated among the twelve 5-ribbons?
3. What are the songs that Constantine Maroulis has sung so far?
4. Who from the third season appeared just recently as a guest in the Michael Gungorson (Last Night I Was Here)?
5. Which season has the most for the high number of contestants?

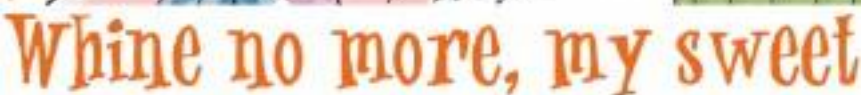
Check "American Idol" on Star World with link

next all available winners on Wednesday and Thursday at 4 p.m. and prize draw replays at 8 p.m.

Winners for Week of March 14:

1. Jenni Tate
2. Mika Gonzalez
3. Victor Aguilar
4. Lacey Monahan
5. Ade Yousouf

Winners can claim their prizes at Agency Associates Inc., 1677 Robinson Equitable Tower, 400 Ave. of the Americas, Orange County, Calif. Call for details or stop by.



There will still be times when I will feel like complaining. And there will still be times when I will give up. But, those times will no longer be a dominant part of me.

After all, I was able to follow the No Compromise rule during my third week. The other weeks for the rest of the year should be a breeze.



LIFESTYLE

For feedback or editorial changes, email life@pdi.com.ph

Post us your feedback!
Include the name and address of
your subscriber. 0011-9380-0000



MICKEY Hawley (above left and inset) was surrounded by people at the Recovery Assistance Forum at the Phuket Heli-Rescue.

Mickey Hawley gave up his comfortable life in the US to help tsunami victims in Thailand. Can you?



100 days of compassion

By Peter Pastor

WHEN the killer tsunami struck South Asia, Mickey Hawley was thousands of miles away, safe and sound in the United States.

But the tragedy had an impact on him. "I heard the death toll climb from 500 to 150,000. I realized that there was going to be a massive amount of help necessary for the emergency relief phase."

Mickey is no stranger to volunteerism. In a long disaster career, he has participated in motivating thousands to the spot where their profit, he has volunteered at a hospital doing outpatient referrals, but participated in fund-

raising dinners and gave blood regularly.

Yet something in him witnessed the horror unfold on his television screen. His desire to help became stronger and stronger.

"When I began packing the bags and seeing to myself that someone needed to go over to Thailand to help, the bags pointed right back at me. I felt that if someone without career personal freedom could not give up his life for a while, then who was I going to go?"

Because Mickey is self-employed and works as a free-lance computer and home musician, there were no boss to consult about leaving to get out.

"I am also currently married and single



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2005

LIFESTYLE

100 days of compassion

enabling me to leave without affecting a significant other in an emotional way," he says.

From London to Thailand

Although he had saved up for a trip to London for 18 months, he decided to change his travel plans and go to Thailand instead, not minding that the fare would double.

After following his doctor's orders of waiting for his immunization shots to take a significant effect, Mickey left for Thailand. But not without saying goodbye to his beloved dog, Ben. Mickey still carries a photo of Ben wherever he goes.

He traveled to Thailand in the hopes of doing the jobs nobody else wanted to.

"Arriving one month after the great wave struck, I figured that those relief workers who were here from the start may be experiencing some degree of burnout, and my aim was to help in any way I could. I was prepared to give my all."

Mickey was ready for anything. In fact, he left a will before leaving Washington State, just in case something happened.

It was Mickey's first time in Thailand. "All that I had heard on the media was Phuket, Phuket, Phuket. After a couple of days of acclimation in Bangkok, I took an overnight train and then a bus to get there."

But when he arrived, things weren't what he expected. "I was, quite honestly, underwhelmed at the lack of damage compared to what I had seen and heard through the media. The wave that had hit Phuket was about 4 meters high."

He decided to ask people where the hardest-hit area was. "I received the same answer from each one—Khao Lak."

Devastation

The very next day, he rode a bus to Khao Lak. "That's where I saw the devastation. The wave that hit Khao Lak was 11 meters high and traveled 4 kilometers inland in places. The destruction was unlike that which I had ever seen."

Soon after his arrival, Mickey started working with the Tsunami Volunteer Center and hasn't stopped since. He took the plunge into life in Khao Lak.

"Every moment of every day has been an unforgettable story. A year's worth of television miniseries' day and night would not even begin to scratch the surface. 80 percent of families lost a family member. Many lost all that they owned. Currently, 6,000 men, women and children live in temporary camps in the area—all who lived in homes before the tragedy. The tremendous economic loss, which has had serious ripple effects, has added to the grief and human loss suffered here," he says.

Mickey has witnessed the Thai's quick rise from the tragedy. "I must

say that in the five or six weeks that I have been here, each day I have seen another business reopen, more people in the shops and restaurants, and more traffic on the roads. The first week I was in Khao Lak, I sat in a restaurant for two hours one evening and was the only customer. In the same restaurant three weeks later, I counted 34 customers as I sat and ate. It made me feel like Khao Lak was indeed renewing itself. The area and its people are moving forward every day."

Loss and grief

Loss is not a new thing for Mickey, whose life changed after the September 11 attacks in New York. A native of New York, having grown up on Long Island for 17 years, he was at another place when the attack occurred, but witnessed the towers fall on live television. The event affected him deeply.

During that time, he was running a successful business, had four employees under him and was remodeling a 110-year-old property that he bought in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

But he lost all that. "All of that slipped away from me as I slipped into a deep low caused by the 9/11 tragedy. I stayed in that trough for over two years, giving up friends and basically my entire life to grief."

It is his own sense of loss that gives him the strength to continue helping people in Thailand. "Having been well familiar with loss gave me the empathy I believe, needed to treat my limited time here as extremely important."

Originally, Mickey had intended to stay for a month. But last Feb. 22, his return ticket expired, becoming just another piece of paper, no thanks to a no-changes policy implemented by the website that sold him his ticket.

"Currently I have no flight back to the States, but I am hoping that will take care of itself when the time comes for me to leave this beautiful country."

He is currently working on the 100 Days Tsunami Memorial, a festival that draws its roots from the Thai belief that on the 100th day after death, the grieving for lost souls is to cease, because that's when the soul is liberated from its former life to pass onto the next.

Mickey's role has been to coordinate the event through the necessary governmental processes and media sources in their aim to inform those affected that there's an opportunity to gather in an international community and to share in the moving forward of all those lives affected.

Other volunteers are currently involved in artist and performer coordination, International Tsunami Village construction and workshops

coordination. The three-day weekend which starts April 4 and ends April 6 will feature events revolving around the Hope, Spirit and Renewal theme. There will be art, music and dance performers, along with survivor's expressions of spirit.

How to help

At the recent Recovery Andaman Forum, Mickey stood up and told an audience of 800 journalists and travel agents from all over the world about the project. When the forum was over, people crowded around him, asking for more information and offering help.

And there are many ways by which people could help. The Tsunami Volunteers website (www.tsunami-volunteers.net) has a lot of information for those wishing to volunteer.

Right now, there are over 120 volunteers from all over the world at The Tsunami Volunteer Center in Khao Lak. Since late December, over 600 individuals have arrived from all parts of the globe to help. Many of these people were people who were turned away by larger relief organizations because what they can contribute is "unskilled assistance." These people found a place in Khao Lak and the Volunteer Center.

These volunteers pay for their own accommodations and food costs while the Center operates on private donations in their aim to accomplish their goals.

According to Mickey, everyone is welcome to help.

"We will not refuse an individual interested in helping and who is willing to give himself to these efforts. There is no wrong way to share goodwill—and goodwill is priceless."

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

'If you want to help, visit my country'

WHEN tragedy hits a tourism-dependent region, causing arrival numbers to drop, tour guides feel the impact.

Orathai "Klang" Aryupong, a tour guide who was born and raised in Phuket, experienced that during last year's tsunami. But instead of wallowing, Klang decided to make herself useful and took a head-first plunge into the rescue efforts.

She was on Patong Beach on the day of the disaster. "I saw low tide and I asked people to run away. Big waves came three times and the last one was terrible," she said.

That very same day, she jumped into action. "I decided to bring water to the Phuket Provincial Hall because I heard some victims from Phi Phi Island didn't have water to drink. Then I went to Vachira Hospital to help some victims and their relatives."

Soon, Klang realized her ability to speak English would benefit a lot of people. The next day, she went to Khao Lak, the hardest-hit area, and helped in the search for bodies, which was emotional for her.

In the middle of January, she started working with the British Embassy and the Phuket Provincial Hall as their link for information. She helped victims who had lost all their money and their passports in the tragedy.

Tourists weren't the only ones affected. A lot of Klang's friends had lost their jobs as a result of the tragedy. Tourists canceled

planned trips to the affected areas of Thailand, lowering the demand for tour guides.

Although tourists have started to trickle in again, a lot of the tour guides are helping with the renovation and restoration efforts in the affected areas.

Many of them, including Klang, also worked with the Tourism Authority of Thailand during the recent Recovery Andaman Mega Fam Tour which brought in 800 journalists and travel agents from all over the world.

Klang was assigned to the Philippine contingent and spent four days with us.

She has one thing to say to people who think Thailand has forgotten too quickly and that it is recovering too fast: "It's useless to keep remembering. Keep in mind that there's no need to talk all the time. If we just talk all the time, we cannot stay alive."

Klang has a lot of love for her country. It is evident in everything she says and does. She stresses that if people want to help her country all they have to do is visit.

"Visit Phuket, Krabi, Chiang Mai, Bangkok and Pattaya. Eat green curry, tom yam, pad thai, seafood and papaya salad. Shop, visit the Grand Palace in Bangkok, learn Thai culture and drink," she says.

Yes, Thailand is on its way to recovery. And the future seems even brighter for the Land of Smiles, thanks to locals like Klang.

Pam Pastor